

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 4423, wherein said frame is formed out of a solid structure.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 4423, wherein said frame is formed out of individual frame members.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The portable holder of claim 15 or 16, wherein said frame is formed from materials selected from the group consisting of metals, plastics, composites and alloys.

Claim 18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The portable cylinder holder of claim 4823, wherein a top of said grasping ~~portion~~means, when said grasping means is in the closed position, does not extend above a valve assembly at the top of the cylinders, when the cylinders are in said compartments.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 20~~23~~, wherein a cupping portion is located on said base portion in each of ~~said at least one~~ compartment, said cupping portion shaped to receive a base of the cylinder.

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A portable holder for use in holding two cylinders, said holder comprising:

a frame forming two compartments, each compartment for holding one cylinder inserted through openings in the top of said frame;

a flat base portion located at the bottom of the frame of each of said compartments and a recessed portion located in between said compartments;

a grasping means located at the top of said frame rotatable between open and closed positions for engaging cylinders within said compartments and for facilitating lifting of said frame by a user;

~~The portable holder of claim 22, wherein:~~

~~a shaft ~~extends~~ extending from said grasping ~~portion~~ means to said recessed portion positioned inside said frame and in between said compartments, said shaft connectable to a locking mechanism located in said recessed portion; and~~

~~wherein, when said grasping means is in the open position, cylinders can be inserted or removed from said compartments and when said grasping means is in the closed position, cylinders inserted within said compartments are secured within said portable holder and wherein said locking mechanism can engages a receiving element affixed to a rack for securing said portable holder to ~~said the~~ rack.~~

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 23, wherein when said grasping means is in the closed position, said locking mechanism engages with the receiving element to affix said portable holder to the rack and when said grasping

means is in the open position the locking mechanism disengages the receiving element to release said portable holder from the rack.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 1423, wherein the rotation of said grasping means is mechanically restricted to resting either in the open position or in the closed position.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 1423, wherein an over-center mechanism mechanically restricts rotation of said grasping means.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A portable holder for holding two cylinders, said holder comprising:

- a frame having an open top portion and a base portion forming two compartments, each compartment for holding a cylinder inserted into ~~the~~ said compartments through said open top portion of ~~the~~ said frame;

- a grasping portion connectable to said frame in between said open top portion of said compartments, rotatable between an open position and closed position;

- a shaft connected to said grasping portion extending between said two compartments through said frame to ~~the~~ said base portion of said frame;

- a locking mechanism connected to said shaft located in said base portion for engaging a receiving element connected to an external rack; and

wherein when ~~the~~ said grasping portion is in the open position, cylinders can be inserted or removed from said compartments and ~~the~~ said locking mechanism is disengaged, and when ~~the~~ said grasping portion is in the closed position, cylinders in said compartments are secured within said holder by said grasping portion and said locking mechanism is engaged.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The portable holder of claim 27, wherein the rotation of said grasping portion is mechanically restricted to resting either in said open position or in said closed position.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 27, wherein a top of said grasping portion, when in the closed position, does not extend above a valve assembly at the top of the cylinders when the cylinders are in said compartments.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 27, wherein a cupping portion is located on said base portion in each of ~~said at least one~~ compartment, said cupping portion shaped to receive a cylinder base.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The portable holder of claim 27, wherein said locking mechanism can engage a ~~said~~ receiving element affixed to the ~~a~~ rack for securing said portable holder to ~~said~~ the rack.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The portable holder of claim 31, wherein when said grasping portion is in the closed position, said locking mechanism engages with the receiving element to affix said portable holder to the rack and when said grasping portion is in the open position said locking mechanism disengages the receiving element to release said portable holder from the rack.

Claim 33 (Cancelled)